Requirement of water for agriculture in Tamil Nadu

2489. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the requirement of water for agriculture for a riparian State like Tamil Nadu in terms of percentage of intensity in million acre feet;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present total water availability from all resources in the State for the purpose; and

(d) the steps Government has taken to prevent water shortage for agriculture in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government of Tamil Nadu has assessed the requirement of water for Agriculture purpose. The estimated demand of surface and ground water is about 54,395 Million Cubit Metre (MCM) as on 2001.

At present total availability of water from all sources in the State are as under:-

1. Annual Water potential of both surface and ground water is 46,540 MCM.

2. Surface water potentials accounts 24,864 MCM.

3. The utilization of surface water for irrigation is 24 lakh hectare.

4. The utilization of ground water recharge is about 22,423 MCM.

The percentage usage of water in terms of domestic (6%) 3263.70 MCM, industrial use (27.7%) 5067.42 MCM and agriculture (66.3%) 36063.885 MCM as estimated, released by Government of Tamil Nadu.

Government of Tamil Nadu has taken various steps to prevent water shortage for Agriculture purpose. Agriculture Engineering department is executing Rain water harvesting and Run off management structures *viz*, Check dams, Percolation Ponds, Farm ponds etc. under stated funded as well as NABARD assisted Rain Water Harvesting and Run off management schemes.

The components executed under these schemes are Masonry Check dams, Percolation ponds with recharge shaft, Farm Ponds, Recharge Shafts in the existing water bodies and New village tanks/Ooranies.

Rehabilitation of farmers hit by drought

2490. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount disbursed by Government as on 31 October, 2009 to provide insurance coverage and financial support to farmers whose crops have been affected by insufficient monsoon in the year 2009;

(b) the number of farmers covered under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme, so far; and

(c) the measure proposed by Government to rehabilitate those farmers who have been hit by the drought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) As per provisions of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), admissible claims for Kharif 2009 will be known after receipt of yield data from the respective State Governments for which the cut off date is 31st January/31st March, 2010 depending upon the crop. Similarly, admissible claims under Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) are known after October/November. However, as on date claims amounting to Rs.39.23 crore for Kharif 2009 season have been settled by the implementing insurance companies under Pilot WBCIS.

13.47 crore farmers have been covered under NAIS since inception *i.e.* Rabi 1999-2000 to Rabi 2008-09 season:

The Central Government has taken several steps in assisting the States in tackling the situation arising out of drought in several parts of the country which, *inter-alia,* include release of Central Government share of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of Rs. 1990.3275 crore and approval of Rs.4073.785 crores out of National Calamity Contingency Fund which is meant for providing input subsidy to the farmers, provision for drinking water and fodder etc.; assistance to save the standing Kharif crops through provision of additional power from the Central pool and providing subsidy on diesel; assistance from Central Sector Schemes for better input distribution for kharif as well as rabi cultivation; providing technical know how through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA); allocation under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) for livelihood support; allocation of additional foodgrains and periodic monitoring and review at all levels of the Central and State Government on mitigation measures. The Government has also constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM), which has been mandated to take decisions on policy issues and schemes required for effective management of drought/deficit rainfall and related issues.

Use of chemicals and fertilizers in agriculture

2491. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state: